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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/645,029	08/21/2003	William J. Betush	TA-00655	7361
7590	10/04/2005		EXAMINER	
BRACEWELL & PATTERSON, L.L.P. SUITE 2900 711 LOUISIANA STREET HOUSTON, TX 77002-2781			TAYLOR, APRIL ALICIA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2876	

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/645,029	BETUSH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	April A. Taylor	2876	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-11 in the reply filed on 20 July 2005 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, and 4-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kennedy (US 6,832,728).

Re claims 1 and 2: Kennedy teaches a remote indicia reading system comprising a series of signatures positioned on exterior surfaces of a plurality of objects, each of the signatures having an encoded, two-dimensional, reflective configuration that is spectrally tailored to define a unique signature for each of the objects; and an optical imaging system for remotely and passively detecting and decoding the signatures and thereby identifying the objects based on the signatures, wherein the optical imaging system has a scanning system that passively records light emanating from the signatures in respective, specific wavelength bands, and recognized the signatures to

discern what the objects are based on a database of information. (See abstract; col. 2, line 30 to col. 3, line 50; col. 4, line 59 to col. 5, line 53)

Re claim 4: Kennedy teaches wherein the remote position of the scanning system is ground-based (see col. 1, line 44 to col. 2, line 10).

Re claim 5: Kennedy teaches wherein a material used to form reflective surfaces of the signatures only reflects energy in wavelength band widths of approximately one-half wavelength (see col. 2, line 44 to col. 4, line 45).

Re claim 6: Kennedy teaches wherein the signatures utilize patterns and symbols to further distinguish between objects (see col. 2, line 30 to col. 4, line 45).

Re claim 7: Kennedy teaches wherein the signatures are painted on the objects (see col. 2, line 30 to col. 4, line 45).

Re claim 8: Kennedy teaches wherein the signatures are adhered to the objects as appliqué (see col. 2, line 30 to col. 4, line 45).

Re claim 9: Kennedy teaches wherein the signatures are invisible to the naked human eye such that no intuitive knowledge is gained by human observation of the signatures (see col. 2, line 30 to col. 3, line 11).

Re claim 10: Kennedy teaches wherein the objects comprise equipment (see col. 2, line 1+).

Re claim 11: Kennedy teaches wherein the system tracks engagements of the objects and movement of supplies to and from the objects in real-time (see col. 1, line 44 to col. 2, line 10).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or fairly suggest, in conjunction with other limitations in the claims, wherein the wavelength bands are encoded to lie outside of threat bands of hostile detectors and hostile guided weapons.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ogawa (US 6,729,540) discloses a system for managing dynamic situations of waste transporting vehicles; and Wright (US 6,142,372) discloses a tractor/trailer tracking system including a plurality of tractor/trailers having a barcode positioned thereon.
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to April A. Taylor whose telephone number is (571) 272-2403. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 6:30AM - 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [april.taylor@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


AAT
03 October 2005



THIEN M. LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER